

Allomorphy and Phonetic Variation in Vocational Terminology

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ABSTRACT

This scientific article analyzes the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation in vocational terminology from a linguistic perspective. The formation of terms within the language system, as well as the processes of their morphological and phonetic changes, are of particular importance. In particular, terms related to professional and vocational fields may be used in several formal variants under the influence of various historical, social, and regional factors.

The article explains, through examples, the manifestation of a single morpheme in different phonetic forms via the phenomenon of allomorphy, as well as the changes in pronunciation and spelling of a term through phonetic variation. The study systematically examines allomorphic units found in Uzbek vocational terminology (such as variants of affixes), along with phonetic variation (including dialectal differences, pronunciation changes, and the adaptation of borrowed terms).

Furthermore, the impact of these phenomena on the process of terminological standardization and their role in ensuring a unified standard in scientific and technical texts are also discussed.

According to the results of the study, the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation in vocational terminology are connected with the natural development of the language. On the one hand, they enrich the language, while on the other hand, they introduce a certain level of complexity to terminological precision and standardization. Therefore, it is substantiated that an in-depth study of these phenomena is of significant importance for improving the terminology system.

Keywords: Vocational terminology, allomorphy, phonetic variation, morpheme, allomorph, term, terminology, phonetic changes, dialect, pronunciation variants, loanwords, standardization, linguistic analysis, language system.

INTRODUCTION

In modern linguistics, the study of terminological systems especially the investigation of the formation and development of terms related to professional fields has become one of the important scientific directions. The advancement of science and technology, the increasing complexity of production processes, and the emergence of new professions and specialties lead to the creation of new terms within the language. In this process, terms undergo not only semantic changes but also morphological and phonetic transformations. In particular, the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation are widespread in professional terminology, clearly demonstrating the dynamic nature of the language system.

Allomorphy in linguistics is a phenomenon related to the expression of a single morpheme in different phonetic forms, and it is often manifested in affixes and word-forming units. This feature is particularly evident in professional terminology, as terms undergo structural changes while adapting to different phonetic environments.

Phonetic variation, on the other hand, refers to the use of terms with the same meaning in different pronunciation or spelling forms. This phenomenon often arises as a result of regional dialects, social factors, and the adaptation of borrowed words to the norms of the native language.

The relevance of this research topic lies in the fact that identifying allomorphic and phonetic variants found in professional terminology and analyzing them systematically contributes to improving the process of terminological standardization. The use of multiple forms of the same term can, in some cases, lead to misunderstandings and negatively affect the accuracy and consistency of scientific and technical texts.

Therefore, the scientific study of these phenomena and the determination of their scope of usage is an important task.

The aim of the research is to linguistically analyze the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation in professional terminology, as well as to identify their causes and functional characteristics. Accordingly, the article examines the theoretical foundations of these phenomena, conducts practical analyses based on examples from the Uzbek language, and draws conclusions from the perspective of standardizing the terminological system.

The study of allomorphy and phonetic variation in professional terminology is of great importance in revealing the internal laws of language, particularly the interrelation between morphological and phonetic systems. These phenomena emerge in the natural development of language and lead to the use of terms in various forms.

First of all, if we consider the phenomenon of allomorphy, it refers to the manifestation of a single morpheme in different phonetic forms. In the Uzbek language, this is especially evident in the system of affixes. For example, suffixes such as *-chi*, *-chiq*, *-kor*, *-gar*, and *-dor*, which are used in the formation of professional terms, appear in different forms depending on the phonetic environment. In words like *temirchi* (blacksmith), *duradgor* (carpenter), and *dehqonchilik* (farming), allomorphic forms emerge as a result of the phonetic adaptation of suffixes. Here, the suffixes adjust to the final sound of the root, ensuring ease of pronunciation.

In addition, some professional terms contain allomorphic variants of borrowed affixes. For instance, the suffix *-ist* (meaning “specialist” or similar to *-chi*), borrowed from Russian, is used in Uzbek in various forms to create terms such as *traktorist* (tractor driver), *mexanizator* (mechanization specialist), and *motorist*. In this process, certain sounds change or are reduced due to phonetic adaptation, resulting in new allomorphic variants.

Phonetic variation, on the other hand, is a phenomenon related to differences in the pronunciation and spelling of professional terms, often shaped by regional, social, and

historical factors. For example, in some regions, the term *usta* (master/craftsman) may be pronounced as *usto* or with a lengthened vowel. Similarly, the term *mexanik* (mechanic) may have variants such as *mexanik* or *mexanig* in spoken language. Although such variations do not affect the meaning of the term, they create differences in its phonetic form.

Another important source of phonetic variation in professional terminology is the adaptation of borrowed terms to the norms of the native language. For example, terms such as *kompyuterchi* (computer specialist), *operator*, and *dizayner* (designer), which have entered Uzbek from English and Russian, were initially used in forms close to their original pronunciation. Over time, however, they gradually adapt to the phonetic rules of the Uzbek language.

In this process, phonetic changes such as sound deletion, insertion, or substitution may occur, resulting in the emergence of several phonetic variants of the same term.

In addition, phonetic variation in professional terminology is also related to orthographic norms. Although some terms are written in a uniform form in official documents, they may be pronounced differently in spoken language. This creates certain difficulties in the process of standardizing terminological units. Therefore, when establishing a unified standard for terms, it is necessary to take their phonetic variants into account as well.

Overall, the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation in professional terminology demonstrate the adaptability of language and its ability to respond to various social and linguistic factors. At the same time, these phenomena require thorough study from the perspective of regulating the terminological system and ensuring clarity in scientific and professional communication.

As a result of analyzing the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation in professional terminology, it can be concluded that these processes reflect the natural development and adaptability of language. Allomorphy, by allowing a single morpheme to appear in different phonetic forms, expands the possibilities for word formation, while phonetic variation provides the basis for using terms in multiple pronunciation and

spelling forms. This, in turn, contributes to the enrichment of professional terminology and the expansion of its functional scope.

At the same time, these phenomena also give rise to certain challenges. In particular, the use of multiple variants of the same term can reduce clarity and consistency in scientific and professional communication. The need for uniform use of terms in official documents, textbooks, and academic texts is especially pressing. Therefore, regulating allomorphic and phonetic variants and determining their forms in accordance with the norms of the literary language remains one of the important tasks.

The results of the research indicate that a linguistic approach, particularly morphological and phonetic analysis, plays a crucial role in improving professional terminology. By thoroughly studying the variability in the formation and use of terms, it becomes possible to standardize them, organize them into a unified system, and apply them effectively in scientific communication.

In conclusion, a comprehensive study of the phenomena of allomorphy and phonetic variation is important not only for theoretical linguistics but also for practical terminology. Advancing research in this area will contribute to creating a stable and consistent system of professional terminology in the future.

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